

**WASHINGTON, DC - House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement tonight after S&P announced they are downgrading the credit rating of U.S. Treasury Securities from AAA to AA+:**

"Tonight's announcement serves as yet another wakeup call that we must put politics aside as we work to put our nation's fiscal house back in order. S&P has made it clear that they expect us to reach a balanced, comprehensive agreement to reduce the deficit. The joint committee must be ready to put everything on the table so that we can restore our credit rating and return our nation to a fiscally sustainable path."